



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ENVIROFACTS

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National Park Service
Hazardous Waste Management &
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USED OIL MANAGEMENT

DEFINITIONS

Used Oil: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines used oil as any oil that has been refined from crude oil or any synthetic oil that has been used and as a result of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities (40 CFR 279.1). Used oil includes motor oil, transmission fluids, and hydraulic oils.

“Use” is defined as an application such as lubricant, coolant, hydraulic fluid, or other similar purpose for which the oil is used. For example, oil from the bottom of a virgin storage tank has not been put to use and, therefore, is not considered used oil.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS

Federal: Generators of used oil must manage it in accordance with 40 CFR Part 279.

State: State used oil regulations may be more stringent than the federal standard. State requirements must be reviewed to thoroughly assess compliance status. Some states do regulate used oil as hazardous waste.

Other: Additional federal and state used oil standards may apply.

HANDLING & STORAGE

Generators of used oil are subject to handling and storage requirements listed in 40 CFR 279.22. The following is a summary of these requirements:

- Used oil is stored in containers, tanks, or units regulated under 40 CFR 264 and 265.
- Storage tanks or containers used to store used oil are maintained in good condition and free of any evidence of leaks.
- Containers or tanks are labeled or marked clearly with the words “used oil.”
- Fill pipes used to transfer used oil into USTs are labeled or marked with the words “used oil.”
- Used oil storage areas are inspected periodically to ensure these requirements are met.

RECYCLING

Parks should recycle all used oil. Used oil can be reconditioned, inserted into a petroleum refinery, processed or burned. For whichever service chosen it is important to verify that the recycling facility is properly permitted and operating in accordance



with all Federal, state, and local requirements.

Federal rules allow generators, such as parks, to burn used oil in oil-fired space heaters provided that certain conditions are met (40 CFR 279.23). These requirements include:

- The oil has not been mixed with a hazardous waste.
- Only used oil generated by the owner or operator is burned.
- The heater has a maximum capacity of 0.5 million BTU per hour.
- Combustion gases from the heater are vented to ambient air.

Generators must verify that transporters of off-site shipments of used oil have obtained EPA ID numbers (40 CFR 279.24), unless the oil is transported under a tolling arrangement (which is not applicable to most parks).

Generators may transport small quantities of used oil to approved collection centers without obtaining an EPA ID number. The following conditions apply:

- The park only transports the used oil in its own vehicles.
- No more than 55 gallons is transported at any time.
- Used oil is transported to a used oil collection center that is properly licensed, permitted, or registered by a state, county, or municipal government.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Mixtures

Used oil mixtures may be subject to hazardous waste rules (40 CFR 260-266, 268 & 270). The following mixtures must be managed as hazardous waste:

- Mixtures of used oil and a listed hazardous waste.
- Mixtures of used oil and hazardous waste that exhibits characteristics of hazardous waste (40 CFR 261).
- Used oil containing more than 1,000 ppm total halogens (exceptions apply and should be evaluated on a case by case basis).

Recordkeeping

Parks should keep documented records of all transporters who haul used oil for the park. These records should include the transporter's EPA ID number, amount and date of shipments, and the name of the recycling facility where the used oil is being shipped.

Spill Response & Notifications

Parks must respond to any releases of oil to the environment and verify that it has been properly

stopped, contained, cleaned up, and ensure that appropriate repairs have been made to prevent future releases (40 CFR 279.22). The park may only respond with properly trained personnel equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment. The park must report any release of a reportable quantity (as determined by a qualified individual) to the environment (40 CFR 302) by contacting the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

Oil Filters and Related Waste

Used oil filters must be managed in accordance with state requirements. Call the Filter Hotline at 1-800-99FILTER to determine specific requirements.

Related used oil waste material such as rags are exempt from the requirements of 40 CFR 279 if all of the used oil has been properly drained or removed from the material to the extent possible such that no visible signs of free flowing oil remain.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Parks should consider performing physical tests on motor oil before changing. Appropriate test kits should be available from a local auto parts supplier. Do not change oil unless it is necessary.

ENVIROFACTS X-REFERENCES

- Environmental Training
- Hazard Communication
- Hazardous Waste Characterization
- Spill Prevention Planning
- Spent Solvent Management

USED OIL MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

Checklist Item	Notes
1. Determine whether your state has adopted more stringent standards for facilities that generate, collect, transport, or manage used oil.	
2. If your used oil is mixed with any hazardous waste assure that the mixture is being managed as a hazardous waste.	
3. Ensure that used oil is not being used as a dust suppressant.	
4. Verify that all used oil storage areas are inspected and that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> containers or tanks are maintained in good condition; there are no visible signs of leaks; and containers, tanks, and piping is labeled with the words "used oil." 	
5. Ensure that any release of oil has been stopped, contained, and cleaned up by properly trained staff or contractors. If the release was not limited to secondary containment determine possible reporting requirements.	
6. Assure that all transporters of used oil have EPA I.D. numbers.	
7. Confirm that adequate records are maintained documenting off-site shipments of waste oil. They should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quantity of shipments, date of shipments, name of transporter and EPA I.D. #; and name of recycling facility. 	
8. Ensure that oil filters are being managed in accordance with your state's requirements.	